

Applicant: Kaever et al.
Application No.: 10/576,973

In The Claims

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (Canceled)
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Canceled)
16. (Canceled)

17. (New) A method for monitoring and identifying dairy animals, the method comprising the steps of:

recognizing with a sensor the presence of a dairy animal moving in a milking parlor;
assigning a number to the dairy animal, whereby the number corresponds to a stall in which the dairy animal will be milked;
storing the number in a process controller;
attempting to read identification data for the dairy animal with a sensor that interacts with an information storage device carried by the dairy animal; and
controlling a dairy operation corresponding to the identification data for the dairy animal when the step of attempting to read identification data for a dairy animal was successful.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
generating a signal when the step of attempting to read identification data for a dairy animal was not successful.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
signaling a dairy operator to visually identify the dairy animal when the step of attempting to read identification data was not successful.

20. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the steps of:
assigning the number and the identification data to an information unit; and
controlling a dairy operation based on the number and identification data in the information unit.

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21. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
determining the speed of the dairy animal moving in the milking parlor with a
plurality of sensors.
22. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
determining the direction the dairy animal is moving in the dairy parlor with a plurality of
sensors.
23. (New) The method of claim 17, and further comprising the step of:
diverting milk from a dairy animal being milked when the step of attempting to read
identification data for that dairy animal was not successful.